

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/095 W

-----231704Z 058129 /41

P R 231641Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0494

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 08530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS CG FR

SUBJECT: ZAIRE INVASION: VIEW FROM THE MATIGNON

REF: PARIS 8271 (NOTAL)

1. DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION MARCH 23, PRIME MINISTER BARRE'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ADVISOR MICHEL DE BONNECORSE SAID THAT THE FRENCH CONSIDER THE BELGIANS MUCH TOO PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE ZAIRIAN SITUATION. HE GAVE AS HIS PERSONAL VIEW, WHICH ADMITTEDLY WAS NOT SHARED BY OTHERS IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, THE BELIEF THAT THE KATANGESE INVASION IS ESSENTIALLY A RETURN HOME BY MERCENARIES NO LONGER HAPPY NOR WANTED IN ANGOLA. WHILE ANGOLA IS PROVIDING THE KATANGESE WITH LOGISTICS SUPPORT, BONNECORSE THOUGHT THAT THERE WERE NO CLEAR SIGNS AS YET THAT THE INCURSION WAS PART OF AN ATTEMPT BY THE ANGOLESE/CUBANS/SOVIETS TO DESTABILIZE  
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ZAIRE OR TO TOPPLE MOBUTU.

2. HAVING DELIVERED THIS OPINION, BONNECORSE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE IN RATHER DRAMATIC TERMS SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO GAIN INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT THESE WERE TIED ORIGINALLY TO SOVIET EFFORTS IN EAST AFRICA GENERATED BY THEIR INDIAN OCEAN DESIGNS, AND SUBSE-

QUENTLY WERE EXTENDED TO OTHER PARTS OF THE CONTINENT  
ONCE THE SOVIETS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF WESTERN  
EUROPE'S VITAL NEED FOR AFRICAN RAW MATERIALS.

3. COMMENT: THE CURRENT APPARENT LULL IN FORWARD  
MOVEMENT BY THE INVADERS NO DOUBT CONTRIBUTES TO  
BONNECORSE'S FRAME OF MIND. WHILE A FEW OTHERS HERE  
SHARE HIS OPTIMISM, MOST OF OUR QUAI AND ELYSEE CON-  
TACTS REMAIN LESS SANGUINE ABOUT ZAIRE'S PROSPECTS.  
GAMMON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INVASIONS, PROGRESS REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, CG, FR, (DE BONNECORSE, MICHEL)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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